

GRAND JURY

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COMBINE BUILDS A ROAD.

Steel Trust Would Save \$120,000,000 Freight Charges.

Chicago, Nov. 30.—The United States Steel corporation contemplates building a trunk line railroad from Chicago to Pittsburg and thence to the seaboard, by means of which an annual saving of \$120,000,000 in freight charges may be effected.

The immediate motive for the building of the line, however, is said to be the corporation's desire to avoid any controversy with the Interstate Commerce Commission, a contingency that continually confronts it, while it has to arrange for terminal allowances with the railroads it uses to transport its heavy freight.

Stories bearing on the project of the projected line go so far as to say that a number of small roads now being built east of Chicago are to be combined and made a part of the new system.

LUMBER RATES SLUMP.

Lumbermen Reduce the Prices in Puget Sound Camps.

Seattle, Nov. 30.—There will be a slump in lumber pretty quick and suburban building will find flooring particularly easy to get hold of. At a meeting of the Washington Logging & Brokerage Company, Saturday, a reduction in the scale of selling prices was inaugurated. No. 1, or flooring, being reduced from \$9 to \$8 per thousand, and No. 2, or merchantable lumber, from \$7 to \$6.50. Class No. 2 was left at the old rate, \$4.50.

The cut in prices was made by the association to meet the cut-rate competition started by the independent loggers along the Sound. The association comprises the majority of the Sound logging companies. The cut of \$1 per 1000 on the flooring lumber is expected to liven the market to no small extent.

OREGON OWNS RIGHT OF WAY

O. R. & N. TRANSFERS LAND FOR PORTAGE ROAD GRADE

Sum of \$12,598 Paid for the Strip—Work on the Portage Will Now Soon Begin—J. McCabe, of Walla Walla Will Probably Be Awarded the Contract—He Has Promised to Wait for Part of His Pay Until the Voluntary Subscriptions Are Collected by the Various Counties.

Portland, Nov. 30.—Yesterday afternoon the O. R. & N. company transferred to the state portage commission a clear title to a right of way across the company's property, between The Dalles and Celilo, for the use of the portage road.

The sum of \$12,598 was paid to the company for the right of way, and the strip of land now belongs to the state of Oregon.

The contract for the construction of the portage was also drawn up yesterday and work will begin at once. J. McCabe, of Walla Walla, will be the contractor. It is understood, although other contractors may bid for the work.

When it was understood that the job was likely to go to McCabe, several contractors of this city made complaint that they had not been given a chance to bid on the work, but when they learned that the contractor doing the work would be compelled to wait for a portion of the money until the road was in operation, and that part of the amount was to come from the voluntary subscriptions of the counties which have promised to make up the \$40,000 deficit in the portage fund, these complaints were hushed up and it is likely that McCabe will get the contract, he having promised to accept the pledges of the Open River commission for any deficit that may exist after the state fund is exhausted.

ENORMOUS POTATO YIELD.

Greeley, Colorado, Produces 15,000 Carloads.

Greeley, Col., Nov. 30.—A conservative estimate of this season's potato crop in the Greeley district puts it at 15,000 carloads, or 3900 carloads more than that of last year. The selling price is much lower this year than last. Growers generally are selling only enough to pay the immediate expenses of digging. The potatoes ripened in the ground and are in excellent shape for keeping. Growers are storing their crops in dugouts, as better prices are expected as the season advances.

Fields at Lone Tree this fall show yields of from 150 to 200 sacks to the acre. For the last three years crops in this section have been damaged by hail and some growers attribute the enormous crop to the hail.

Chicago Grain.

UNITED STATES IS UNPREPARED

Military Authorities Complain Especially of Lack of Coast Defenses.

ALSO OF LACK OF MEN TO ARM PRESENT ARMAMENT.

Government Is Also Shy Flock Artillery and Torpedo Defense for Harbors—Senator Cockrell Confers With Roosevelt and May Accept Appointment to Interstate Commerce Commission—Rear Admiral Davis Is Appointed to Represent America on Doggerbank Commission.

Washington, Nov. 30.—In his annual report the chief of artillery, Brigadier General J. P. Story, calls attention to the unpreparedness of the country for war, especially respecting coast defenses. He says:

"We have not one-half enough of trained personnel to man the armament already mounted. My report calls attention to the insufficiency of the field artillery and incomplete torpedo defenses of the harbor."

Cockrell Confers With Roosevelt.

Washington, Nov. 30.—Senator Cockrell of Missouri, called at the White House this morning, and had a talk with the president over the offer of a position either on the Panama canal commission, or the interstate commerce commission. He will probably select the latter.

Rear Admiral Davis Appointed.

Washington, Nov. 30.—Rear Admiral Davis has accepted the appointment to the Doggerbank commission.

IN FEDERAL COURTS.

Colorado Election Tangle Develops New Phases.

St. Paul, Nov. 30.—Edwin Richardson, of Denver, today took the Colorado election tangle before Judge Sanborn, of the federal court of appeals and asked for a writ of habeas corpus for Michael Dowd, an election official arrested by order of the state supreme court. The hearing will be December 10 at St. Louis.

HEARING DECEMBER 12.

Mormons Looking Into Record of Prosecutor.

Youngstown, O., Nov. 30.—A Mormon agent is here in behalf of Reed Smoot, looking into the congressional and business record of ex-Congressman R. W. Taylor, who is conducting the case against Smoot. Taylor returned this morning from Washington and announced the Smoot hearing as set for December 12.

TWO WOMEN DEAD.

Result of an Explosion in New Orleans Laundry.

New Orleans, Nov. 30.—As a result of the explosion of a gasoline engine fire occurred in the Swiss laundry last night. Georgia Beecher and Mary Nelson are dead and six others are seriously burned. Altogether, 30 are injured.

Italian Legislature Opens.

Rome, Nov. 30.—King Victor today opened the Italian legislature with a speech from the throne, which was received with enthusiasm. The socialist deputies did not attend the opening session.

HEAVY RAILROAD TRAFFIC.

Eastern and Western Roads Greatly Congested.

Traveling men just from the East report business in all lines is so heavy the railroads cannot handle the traffic. The dispatches show that the eastern roads are also unable to furnish cars enough for the big grain crops.

RUMOR THAT PORT ARTHUR IS TAKEN

Japanese Have Gained Dominating Forts and Positions About the Stronghold.

MORE FORTS EXPECTED TO FALL IN NEAR FUTURE.

Stoessel Will Not Surrender, But Is Expected to Retreat to the Last Ditch and Breastworks and There Resist—Fires Raging in Port Arthur—Russians on the Offensive in Northern Manchuria and Gain Some Advantages at the Expense of the Japanese—Russian Warship Repaired.

London, Nov. 30.—The rumor, current on the Stock Exchange this morning, that Port Arthur had fallen, is not yet confirmed. Some color is given the report by dispatches received in Paris, which state that dominating positions have further been taken by the Japanese.

Will Retreat to Last Ditch.

Rome, Nov. 30.—A dispatch to Giornale di Roma from Tokio says the fall of Port Arthur and Kewan are expected today. Russian prisoners declare Stoessel is determined the fortress shall not be taken by assault and everything is now ready for retreat to Liao Tshan and Tiger's Tail. Non-combatants will be left behind and compelled to throw themselves on the generosity of the Japanese.

The dispatch adds that fires have been raging for two days past at various points in Port Arthur, which has been like a furnace.

Japanese Gain Ground.

Tokio, Nov. 30.—It is reported that the Japanese have assaulted and carried the southeastern portion of 293 Meter Hills.

Japanese Diet Opened.

Tokio, Nov. 30.—The Japanese diet was formally opened today by the mikado in a speech from the throne. The mikado announced a scheme will be submitted to meet the extraordinary war expenses.

Referring to the war the mikado said: "Our expeditionary forces have been victorious in every battle and have repeatedly shown fresh proofs of their loyalty and bravery, so that the progress of the war has been constantly to our advantage. We expect by the loyal devotion of our subjects to attain our ultimate object."

Prazitoly Is Repaired.

Brest, France, Nov. 30.—The Russian torpedo boat destroyer Prazitoly, which put in here in a damaged condition, will be repaired in two or three days, which will enable her to overtake the Baltic squadron.

Russians Act on Aggressive.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 30.—Kurapatkin reports that the Japanese detachments which were dislodged after the battle of Sine Chen Sunday, stopped near Sung Ducen. The Japanese were greatly depressed, and carried many wounded with them. He adds: "The Russians this morning resumed the offensive. Ten vessels from their previous position our vanguard encountered the enemy's fire. At noon our artillery replied, while the infantry advanced. All is quiet along the center and right wing."

RAILWAY EXTENSION STOPPED.

Sumpter Valley Will Not Build Any Further Toward the Interior This Year.

Baker City, Nov. 30.—Owing, it is alleged, to prohibitive freight rates on steel rails, the Sumpter Valley railway will not extend its road bed any further into the interior of Grant county this year.

Sumpter Valley officials allege that they have large orders of rails tied up in the east, because of high freight rates to the west. It is thought the Sumpter Valley people are seeking an excuse to stop the extension and have charged the delay to the prohibitive rates. Traffic is so heavy on all lines that it is impossible to secure cars to handle the rail shipments for the west.

Nan Patterson Is Ill.

New York, Nov. 30.—Nan Patterson is ill in the Tombs with tonsillitis and has a high fever. Dr. McGuire, the Tombs physician, says he thinks the young woman will be able to appear in court Monday, when the case is again called.

PEABODY STILL FIGHTING.

Revolutionary Tactics to Reverse Colorado Election.

Denver, Col., Nov. 30.—Another step in the Colorado governorship fight took place today when the supreme court gave a hearing on the motion made by the attorneys for Governor Peabody asking that the election commissioners be enjoined from certifying any returns whatsoever from precinct 8, ward 7, of Denver.

The significance of the motion lies in the fact that if it is granted similar motions will be made to throw out every precinct in Denver, and also in many other parts of the state. The democratic leaders declare that the court would not dare take such revolutionary action and they profess not to feel any alarm over the outcome.

MISSING CIGAR DEALER FOUND.

Became Demented and Wandered Away—Police Located Him.

Walla Walla, Nov. 30.—George H. Smith, proprietor of the cigar store on Third street, who became demented and wandered away from his place of business early Tuesday morning, was located last night near the Eureka mills by the police, who had been searching for him all day. He spent Monday night wandering about the streets and yesterday morning took \$500 from the safe in his place of business and disappeared.

KILLED TWO.

Texas Farmer Enraged Over Daughter's Elopement.

Port Worth, Texas, Nov. 30.—Because he eloped with his daughter, J. M. Williams, a farmer near Alvarado shot and killed Steven McKinney, a young man. McKinney's father interfered and was also killed. Another son was seriously wounded. Officers are after Williams.

PENDLETON DID NOT LOSE A GAME

CHAMPION OF EASTERN OREGON AT FOOTBALL.

Won Four Games With Experienced Teams, and Tied Once, With the Walla Walla High School Eleven—The Team Has a Good Record and Is Out for Business—Elmer Storie Is Captain—Second Team Will Play the Indians Saturday, on the Alta Street Grounds.

The Pendleton football team closed its season last night, the champion of Eastern Oregon. The members of the eleven met for the last time yesterday afternoon at the close of the season and formally disbanded after electing Elmer Storie captain for 1905.

During the season the team played five games and did not bow to a single defeat, footing up 91 points. The games played were as follows:

"Once Was Its" at Pendleton, 28 to 0.
Walla Walla high school at Walla Walla, 6 to 6.
Whitman second eleven at Pendleton, 6 to 0.
Weston normal at Weston, 33 to 0.
Baker City high school at Pendleton, 18 to 0.

The second team of the high school will play ball in this city Saturday afternoon with an eleven from the Indian school. The Indian boys claim a strong team, and an interesting contest is looked for.

Lawyers Elect Officers.

Portland, Nov. 30.—At the afternoon session of the Oregon State Bar Association yesterday, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, A. T. Sears, Jr.; vice-president, A. E. Reames, Jacksonville; J. W. Bennett, Marshfield; G. Bingham, Salem; C. W. Fulton, Astoria; G. W. Phelps, Heppner; C. J. Bright, Wasco; Samuel White, Baker City, and W. R. King, Ontario; secretary, Robert P. Platt; treasurer, C. J. Schnabel; executive committee, W. M. Calk, Charles Carey, Thomas G. Halley, G. Greene, C. D. Latourette, and H. Thompson.

Burned to Death.

Great Falls, Nov. 30.—Residents of Pincher's Creek in the city yesterday brought news of a fatal accident in which John Cyr, who had recently removed to that country from Maine, lost his life. His stable caught fire from a spark from the chimney of his dwelling and he entered the stable in an effort to save his nine horses. A few seconds after he entered the building, the roof fell in and when the fire had burned out, his charred corpse was found in the ashes. He leaves a wife and several adult children, residing in the vicinity of Pincher's Creek.

Rev. John B. Goddard, who left the ministry to go into business at Seattle, is being sued by Mrs. Mary Vestal, who accuses him of appropriating to his own use \$500 which she gave him for investment.

WESTON NORMAL MODEL COLLEGE

Opinion Expressed by Umatilla County's Legislative Representatives.

ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE LEGISLATION NEEDED.

The Appropriation of Two Years Ago Barely Sufficient for the More Urgent Needs of the Institution—President French Is Preparing Statistics for a Show-down of the College's Resources, Needs and Record—Believed the Work of the Past Year Will Be Sufficient Guarantee for an Appropriation.

State Senators Walter M. Pierce, C. J. Smith and Representatives W. C. Cole yesterday conferred with President R. C. French, of the Eastern Oregon State Normal at Weston. The school was visited by the Umatilla legislators and Mr. French outlined the work being done.

The visit was made for the purpose of arriving at some definite conclusion regarding appropriation needed from the next legislature to carry on the school work for two years more. Dr. Cole is the only member of the delegation who is in Pendleton today.

"It is evident," he said, "that the last appropriation was barely enough to sustain the school, but in order to lay the matter properly before the legislature we must have facts and figures from President French. Then he has promised to supply in a short time."

"Senator Pierce advanced the thought that the state legislature had been slow in appropriating money to conduct the Eastern Oregon State Normal for the reason that its showing in the number of graduates had been small heretofore. Tax payers throughout the state," he remarked, "were not willing to put up for something that brought small returns on the investment."

However, it is believed that the showing to be made by the school for this year, will be entirely satisfactory to the legislature, and that the amount of work done, on a given sum of money will average up remarkably well with other state schools.

They found the school in a highly satisfactory condition and were well pleased with the management, from their hurried view of the institution. The people of Weston are enthusiastic over the success of the school, and the prospects for its continued growth are good.

Baker City Improvements.

Baker City, Nov. 30.—The O. R. & N. company has filled in the grounds about the Baker City station and between the tracks with shell rock, so that no matter what the weather, vehicles and pedestrians can approach the station dry shod. The hack stand has also been put in first-class shape with bumpers and dead lines. The O. R. & N. depot at Baker City is now in line with the improvements being made generally on the road by Manager Calvin.

EXPECTS SUCCESS.

A. L. Craig's Estimate of Irrigation Works.

General Passenger Agent A. L. Craig, of the O. R. & N., who is on the line in his car 03, with Publicity Agent R. M. Hall, and Traveling Passenger Agent J. O'Neill, inspecting Eastern Oregon and Washington, stated to a Democrat man Sunday, it was expected the new town just west of Umatilla will prove successful.

Speaking of the 1905 exposition to be held at Portland, Mr. Craig said that thousands and thousands of people were coming to the Northwest not so much to see the exposition as to see the country and take advantage of the cheap rates to the Northwest coast. The Lewis and Clark fair has advertised Oregon to the world, as nothing before undertaken has ever done. Oregon will reap the benefit of this advertising and reimburse itself for the cost of the exposition from the new people who will come here to stay, and the new capital invested in the state. The exposition itself may not pay its expenses from the gate money, but Oregon, Washington and Idaho will get its cost back many times.—Baker City Democrat.

One Man Killed.

Xenia, O., Nov. 30.—By the explosion of a press mill at the Miami powder works, five miles north, at 7:30 this morning, Matthew Smith was killed, and three other workmen badly burned. Financial loss slight.